

Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 /095 W

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R 290920Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3366

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L 3392

FOR IO/IOC, NEA/RA AND S/S-S;

PASS AID FOR AID/NE/TECH-RICHTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO

SUBJ: CENTO SEC GEN PROPOSES SEPARATE CULTURAL FUND

1. CENTO SECRETARY GENERAL BAYULKEN HAS SENT US A DRAFT RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS FUND. HE HOPES THAT THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES, AT ITS MEETING MAY 4, CAN APPROVE THE DRAFT FOR SUBSEQUENT SUBMISSION TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

2. TEXT OF RESOLUTION IS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

HAVING CONSIDERED CHAPTER IV OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S ANNUAL REPORT ON THEWORK OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION AND BEARING IN MIND THE DESIRABILITY AND IMPORTANCE OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES,

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DIRECTS THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES:

- (1) TO SUPPORT ACTIVELY CENTO'S PROPOSED CULTURAL AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMES WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THEM IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL FIVE MEMBERS WILL BE INVOLVED; AND
- (2) TO ESTABLISH A CULTURAL FUND FOR THE FIRST YEAR FOR POUNDS STERLING 10,000 (WITH EQUAL CONTRIBUTIONS) AS WELL AS TO SEPARATE THE FUNCTIONAL BUDGET OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMME FROM THE ANNUAL DOMESTIC BUDGET OF THE SECRETARIAT. END TEXT

3. AN ACCOMPANYING MEMORANDUM (COPIES OF WHICH HAVE BEEN POUCHED TO NEA/RA AND IO) POINTS OUT THAT THE SCHEDULING OF CENTO CULTURAL PROGRAMS IS HAMSTRUNG BY THE PROLONGED DELAYS THAT PLAGUE THE ANNUAL BUDGETARY PROCESS. THE MEMORANDUM THEREFORE SUGGESTS A SEPARATE FUND WHICH WOULD BE OPERATED MUCH LIKE THE MULTILATERAL SCIENTIFIC FUND (MSF) AND THE MULTILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION FUND (MTCF).

4. THE BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR CENTO AFFAIRS BELIEVES THAT HMG PROBABLY WILL SUPPORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE FUND FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES BUT WILL RECOMMEND THAT FIRST YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD TOTAL ONLY PS 8,000 (THIS FIGURE TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE DECREASE IN EXCHANGE VALUE OF THE POUND AND GENERAL INCREASES IN COSTS, WOULD MAINTAIN THE PROGRAM LEVEL INTENDED IN THE 1975-76 CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUDGET OF PS 6,520.)

5. THE PAKISTANI EMBASSY IS NOT CERTAIN IT WILL RECEIVE INSTRUCTIONS IN TIME FOR THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES MEETING. WE HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO GET A READING ON THE SUBJECT FROM THE IRANIAN EMBASSY.

6. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE CENTO'S CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS FUNCTIONS WOULD BENEFIT FROM HAVING A SEPARATE FUND, PROVIDING THERE WERE SAFEGUARDS SIMILAR TO THOSE EMPLOYED BY MSF AND MTCF. AS TO THE AMOUNT, IT PROBABLY IS BEST FOR THE FUND TO START MODESTLY AS PROPOSED AND SEE IF AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM CAN BE DEVELOPED. WE THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE INSTRUCTED TO EXPRESS APPROVAL OF

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THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, BUT TO ACCEPT A REDUCTION OF THE PROPOSED AMOUNT OF THE FUND IF NECESSARY FOR CONSENSUS IN THE COUNCIL OF DEPUTIES. WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING INSTRUCTIONS BY MAY 3.

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